

ACCESS TO JUSTICE UPDATE

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The Justice Action Group is a coalition of individuals and organizations established in 1995 to provide leadership and coordination in planning for the provision of civil legal aid to low-income and elderly Mainers.

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ACCESS TO JUSTICE DAY MARCH 7, 2013

On Thursday March 7, 2013 JAG presented the 5th Annual Access to Justice Day at the Statehouse. Members of the access to justice community were present in the Hall of Flags providing information to legislators about the valuable resources available to them and their constituents through Maine's legal aid community.

JAG Chair Justice Jon D. Levy of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court and JAG Vice-chair, Federal Magistrate Judge John H. Rich III, addressed the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary (visit <http://mbf.org/content/justice-action-group> to read the full address) and met with representatives from the Governor's office to discuss the importance of providing access to justice to all Mainers throughout the legal system as well as



Senator Linda Valentino and Representative Charles Priest, Chairs of the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary present Justice Jon D. Levy and Federal Magistrate Judge John H. Rich III with a Joint Resolution Recognizing the Justice Actions Group's 2013 Access to Justice Day.

how providing access to justice benefits Maine's businesses and the greater Maine community and economy. (More on page 3.)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- May 1, 2013: Lawyers in Libraries: Law Day 2013
- May 8, 2013: JAG Board Meeting
- October 2013: Katahdin Counsel Recognition Programs
- January 2014: JAG's 3rd biannual Access to Justice Symposium.

Lawyers in Libraries

Because libraries are at the heart of our communities and justice is at the heart of our democracy.

On Law Day: May 1st, 2013, libraries across Maine will partner with local lawyers to speak with library patrons about the challenges that arise when an individual is faced with a legal problem. Volunteer lawyers will provide information on how to access civil legal resources and will be available for a brief consulta-

tion for attendees. The event is scheduled in most of the libraries from noon until 2 pm.

The goal of **Lawyers in Libraries: Law Day 2013** is to provide Maine citizens with an understanding of how having meaningful access to legal advice and information is critical to their community's well-being. Attendees will have an

opportunity to meet a lawyer in their community and receive information about free resources and low-cost legal assistance. Information on consulting with a lawyer, unbundled services and the Lawyer Referral Service of the Maine State Bar Association will also be available – information that will be helpful for those who do not qualify for free legal help.

If you are interested in participating in this program or would like additional information, please visit our website at: www.lawyersinlibraries.org or e-mail cwilshusen@mbf.org.

Please spread the word about this exciting event.

JAG'S PRIVATE SECTOR OUTREACH TASK FORCE RELEASES REPORT

The Private Sector Outreach Task Force presented its report at the January 23, 2013 Meeting of the JAG Board.

The Private Sector Outreach Task Force, was given a four-part charge by JAG in early 2012: to (1) identify *pro bono* programs and initiatives that benefit Maine's private sector; (2) identify the positive effects that equal access to civil justice has for Maine's private sector and the Maine economy; (3) develop effective communications strategies about

these topics; and (4) promote an effective relationship between the equal access to justice community and the private sector.

After much consideration the Task Force concluded that there must be an initial three-pronged approach to engage the private sector:

1. Undertake a broad-based campaign to raise awareness of the access to justice (ATJ) community among private sector leaders.

2. Engage the Business Community in a Dialogue.

3. Leverage in-house counsel as potential resources for ATJ providers and as bridges to business leaders.

JAG is grateful for the considerable time and efforts of task force members, Federal Magistrate Judge John H. Rich III, Kevin P. Gildart former Vice President of Bath Iron Works, Miles F. Archer, Esq., UNUM Vice President and Chief Insurance Operations Officer, Janet

Vivar Britton, Esq., Counsel for Hannaford Bros. Co., Charles S. Colgan, Chair/Professor of Public Policy and Management, Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service, University of Southern Maine, Dana F. Connors, President of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, Sara Gagné-Holmes, Esq., Executive Director of Maine Equal Justice Partners, Brenda Garrand, CEO of Garrand, and Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, CEO, Goodwill Industries of Northern New England.

You can view the full report at: <http://mbf.org/content/justice-action-group>

CHAIR OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF PROVIDERS NAMED



James Kilbreth, Esq.

Jaimie Kilbreth, a Partner at Drummond Woodsum, has been named Chair of the Advisory Committee of Providers, the six primary legal aid providers in Maine whose directors serve in an advisory capacity to the Maine Justice Action Group.

Jaimie has been a long-time supporter of access to justice initiatives, has served on the boards of the legal aid providers, and in the past has been the Maine Bar Foundation representative to JAG.

"CY PRES" RULE AMENDED

Through the extraordinary efforts of Attorney Eric Stauffer, former president of the Maine Bar Foundation and many others, effective March 1, 2013, the Maine Supreme Judicial Court has amended Civil Rule 23(f) allocating unclaimed residual funds from class action law suits for distribution to the Maine Bar Foundation to further its mission "to support efforts to widen access to justice for those who cannot afford it." MRCivP 23(f) advisory note.

For the full text of the rule please visit:

http://www.courts.state.me.us/rules_adminorders/rules/amendments/2013_mr_1civil-rules.pdf

Congratulations to the 127 attorneys named to the Katahdin Counsel in 2012. Please visit:

http://www.courts.state.me.us/citizen_help/attorneys/katahdin/overview.html

to view a full roster and photo gallery of the statewide recognition events.



ACCESS TO JUSTICE DAY



JUDICIAL BRANCH ACCESS TO JUSTICE UPDATE

Hanna Sanders, Esq., Access to Justice Coordinator

In July 2012, the State of Maine Judicial Branch hired Shira Panelli, Esq. as the first Legal Publications Specialist; her role is to review, modify and develop all forms and publications. Ms. Panelli is a vibrant and dedicated member of our Access to Justice department, and is working to ensure that the Judicial Branch responds to the needs of self-represented litigants by creating accessible materials that provide simple, comprehensive instructions to better navigate our court system. In addition, Ms. Panelli is responsible for the translation of Judicial Branch vital documents and, to date, has been instrumental in updating the Judicial Branch [Protection from Abuse forms](#).

Ms. Panelli is also working in tandem with our Information and Web Services Specialist, Tracie Lammers, to re-shape the content and navigation of the Judicial Branch website. Our goal is to provide a more intuitive

and user-friendly website to enable attorneys and the public better access to the courts. In addition, Ms. Lammers is responsible for the coordination and dissemination of all Judicial Branch information, which includes our first forays into social media: a Twitter account and RSS feed.

With the addition of University of Maine Law student extern Taylor Kilgore, the Access to Justice department is working diligently to address several key areas identified by the 2007 JAG [Statewide Access to Justice Planning Initiative](#). At present, we are developing projects to provide touchscreen kiosks in courthouses, provide increased access to pro bono attorneys in rural areas via remote and real-time technology, eliminate language and physical barriers to court proceedings, improve courthouse signage throughout the state, develop educational tools to help ease the anxiety associated

with court appearances, provide the clerks with updated resources and tools to assist self-represented litigants, and provide enhanced methods of sharing information with the public via our Service Call Center.

With respect to language access, the Judicial Branch began a targeted recruitment effort in the summer of 2012 and, as a result, we are pleased to welcome several new Court Interpreters including Somali, Arabic, and Khmer speakers. With the addition of new female interpreters, we are now offering many litigants the option of a female interpreter for sensitive case types. In addition, the Judicial Branch is providing specialized training for Court Interpreters for legal matters involving protective custody, domestic violence, and criminal proceedings, and juveniles. During these trainings, we focus on ethics and the importance of confidentiality, with a goal of providing the highest quality interpreter services to our Limited English Proficient litigants.

JAG WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS IN 2013

Maine Trial Court Representative
Judge Mary Kelly

A native of Belmullet, Ireland, Judge Kelly came to the trial court after working as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Maine and then as a Family Law Magistrate.

In speaking of her experience as a Family Law Magistrate to the Judiciary Committee, Judge Kelly stated that "I work hard to ensure that parties are treated with care and respect in the

court system. I make sure that people feel their concerns are heard and understood both by me and by the other parent in the case. I have found that the vast majority of parents I encounter care deeply about their children, and with some guidance and gentleness from the court, most

resolve their cases by agreement."

Judge Kelly joins the JAG Board to lend her perspective as a Maine Trial Court Judge.



MSBA REPRESENTATIVE TO THE JAG BOARD

2013 MSBA President William Robitzek joined the JAG Board in January joining outgoing president Anne-Marie Storey. Bill will also sit on JAG's Executive Committee which meets monthly.

A Partner at Berman & Simmons, Bill's practice spans the areas of

personal injury, professional malpractice, and complex litigation. He is well known in his role as a teacher and frequent speaker in litigation-related seminars.

Bill is also a frequent participant and moderator at Maine State Bar

Association seminars. His topics are typically in the area of litigation and include such issues as evidence, deposition taking, trial tactics, openings and closings, and medical malpractice. He has been an Adjunct Professor at the University of Maine Law School.



William Robitzek, Esq.

GINGER DAVIS RETURNS TO THE JAG BOARD FOR THE MAINE BAR FOUNDATION



Ginger Davis returns to the JAG Board to represent the Maine Bar Foundation. An active member of the access to justice community, Ginger previously sat on the board in her capacity as the president of the Maine State Bar Association and then as it's access to justice chair.

In addition, Ginger has served

on many JAG task forces including co-chairing the Standing Committee on Pro-Bono, whose 2010 report resulted in the newly launched Katahdin Counsel Recognition Program. She was also a principal planner for the 2012 Access to Justice Symposium.

MAINE TRIAL LAWYERS APPOINTS CHRISTOPHER LARGAY TO THE BOARD

The Maine Trial Lawyers appointed Attorney Christopher Largay as their representative to the JAG Board. Chris has a litigation practice based in Bangor, Maine.

In addition to his seat on the JAG Board, Chris is a member of JAG's Collabo-

ration on Innovation, Technology and Equal Access to Justice and is currently working on the implementation of JAG's Access to Justice Expansion Grant and the Lawyers in Libraries: Law Day 2013 event.

Chris is a graduate of the University of New

Hampshire—School of Law with a certificate from the Harvard Law School Program on Negotiation.



We are on the web!

<http://mbf.org/content/justice-action-group>

JUSTICE ACTION GROUP

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Caroline Wilshusen, JAG Executive Coordinator

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Maine Justice Action Group

CAMPAIGN FOR JUSTICE UPDATE

Cathy Coffman, Campaign Director

The 2012 Campaign for Justice closed and the 2013 Campaign began at the Winter Bar meeting on Friday, January 25.

Outgoing Chair Charles Dingman of Preti Flaherty announced that \$416,121 had been raised in 2012, an increase over 2011's \$400,642. Over 1,400 members of the bar and bench gave, with 10% of them doubling their last gift and nearly half giving an increased gift.

The 2012 Campaign had several recognitions, among them Firms Leading for Justice whose members reached an increased leadership goal based on their size. Those firms were: Berman & Simmons, Bernstein Shur, Drummond Woodsum, Eaton Peabody, Hardy Wolf & Downing, Law Offices of Joe Bornstein, Monaghan Leahy, Norman Hanson DeTroy, Pierce Atwood, Preti Flaherty, Thompson Bowie, and Verrill Dana. The Law Offices of Joe Bornstein had the highest per-attorney average in the state (\$1,356),

and Preti Flaherty had the highest average of the ten largest firms in the state (\$456).

At the bar luncheon, Dingman introduced the 2103 10th Anniversary Chair William Harwood of Verrill Dana. Harwood addressed the audience briefly and encouraged the legal community to rededicate to the Campaign during the 10th anniversary year and to take a pledge to both give more and work together to expand its results advancing justice in Maine one family at a time. He announced that his hope was that the Campaign would raise \$450,000 in this anniversary year.

In the evening the Maine Bar Association generously hosted a reception that was a kick-off for the 10th Anniversary Campaign.

The 2012 annual report will be mailed to the legal community around February 4. It can also be viewed online at www.campaignforjustice.org under "Campaign Updates." A 2013

"rededication" pledge card is also online under the page "Get Involved" with actions you can take to celebrate the 10th anniversary and affirm the legal community's collective commitment to work and give to provide more access to justice in Maine.



2013 10th Anniversary Chair
William Harwood